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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: DECLASSIFY AFTER FEB 24, 1978

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US

SUBJECT: SENATOR CASE COMMENTS ON INTERNAL AGREEMENT

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY SENATOR CASE HAS BEEN EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23. ALTHOUGH SOME OF IT HAS APPEARED IN REUTERS REPORT, TEXT OF HIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE ADMINISTRATIVELY CONTROLLED UNTIL AFTER 23RD.

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT CASE STATEMENT IS INDICATIVE OF GROWING SENTIMENT IN US FAVORING INTERNAL AGREEMENT
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AND OF INCREASED QUESTIONING WHY USG DOES NOT GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE SALISBURY TALKS.

3. BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE THE WHITE MINORITY AND THE BLACK MAJORITY HAVE NOW REACHED AGREEMENT IN RHODESIA ON A NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL GIVE MAJORITY RULE TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND GIVE PROTECTION TO THE WHITE CITIZENS OF

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THAT COUNTRY.

THIS SETTLEMENT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN REACHED WITHOUT THE GOOD WILL SHOWN BY THE WHITE GOVERNMENT HEADED BY IAN SMITH. BEGINNING ONE YEAR AGO, THE SMITH GOVERNMENT BEGAN LIQUIDATING ALL LAWS THAT DISCRIMINATED BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK CITIZENS. SO-CALLED "PETTY APARTHEID" WAS ELIMINATED, AND BLACKS WERE ALLOWED TO COMPETE FOR TOP JOBS IN THE COUNTRY.

UNFORTUNATELY, NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR GREAT BRITAIN SUPPORTED EITHER THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL LAWS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RHODESIA NOR THE EFFORT TO REACH A COMPROMISE SOLUTION. BRITAIN'S REASONS DERIVE FROM HER HISTORICAL ANTIPATHY TO THE WHITE LEADERS IN RHODESIA, WHO REVOLTED FROM BRITISH COLONIAL RULE. I CANNOT EXPLAIN WHY WE IN THE UNITED STATES APPEARED TO SIDE WITH THE MOST RADICAL, REVOLUTIONARY TERRORISTS WHO REFUSED TO MAKE ANY DEAL TO PROTECT THE MINORITY WHITE POPULATION.

IT NOW APPEARS THAT RHODESIA WILL SUCCEED AND WILL BE ABLE, IN TIME, TO GET SUFFICIENT BACKING TO ELIMINATE ANY THREATS FROM RADICAL, TERRORIST ORIENTED GROUPS. THE QUESTION FOR THE UNITED STATES IS WHETHER WE WILL BACK THE MODERATE SOLUTION TO RHODESIA'S RACIAL PROBLEM OR WHETHER WE WILL CONTINUE TO SIDE WITH RUSSIAN ARMED
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TERRORISTS.

I HOPE WE WILL SUPPORT THE MODERATE SOLUTION AND I URGE THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE IT CLEAR WE DO SUPPORT THE AGREEMENT ON RHODESIA. -

AMERICANS HAVE A STRONG, DEEP INTEREST IN ENDING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND IN PROTECTING MINORITY GROUPS. IT IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR NATIONAL TRADITION AND IT FORMS THE BASIS OF OUR STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IF WE WANT TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA -- BOTH IN BLACK AFRICA AND IN WHITE AFRICA -- THEN OUR STAND HAS TO BE CLEAR AND CONSISTENT. IF WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE NEW MODERATE SOLUTION FOR RHODESIA THEN, I BELIEVE, WE WILL HURT THE CHANCES TO GET IMPROVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AND WE WILL HARM THE CHANCE TO ENCOURAGE MODERATE BLACK LEADERS IN THE REST OF AFRICA TO WORK WITH THE WEST IN PURSUIT OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND EXPANSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

ONE YEAR AGO WE ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN THE SENATE URGED THE UNITED STATES TO SEND AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO RHODESIA TO HELP ACHIEVE A MODERATE

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SOLUTION. NOW THAT A SOLUTION HAS BEEN AGREED UPON, IT
IS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SEND AN AMERICAN MISSION
TO RHODESIA TO SHOW OUR GOOD WILL AND OUR STRONG INTEREST
IN HELPING THAT COUNTRY SUCCEED IN ITS NEW EFFORT. UNQTE
END TEXT. VANCE

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